

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 30 are currently pending in the application. Claims 9, 14 – 17, 20 – 23 and 25 – 30 are currently withdrawn from consideration. Claims 2-8, 10-13, 18-19, and 24 are allowed.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Publication 2000-100955 to Kazuo. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The Examiner alleges that the signal pads 5 are arranged in an area outside of the power supply pads, (located in the inner region 3), comparable to an equivalent feature in claim 1. However, this statement is contradicted by the abstract which indicates that pads 5 are arranged all over the surface of the LSI chip 1. Furthermore, the statement of the Examiner implies, and it is true of claim 1 as well, that the area of the power supply pads is inside the area of the signal pads. However, this is untrue in Kazuo, since the abstract plainly states that a corner cell 4, which serves for power, is located at each corner of the LSI chip 1. As is apparent from the Figure accompanying the abstract, corner cell 4 is not inside of one of the signal pads 5, contrary to the feature of claim 1.

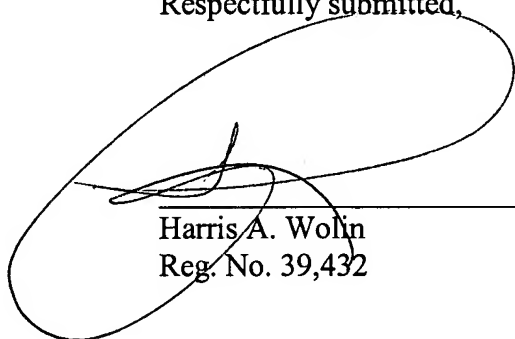
CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims 1-8, 10-13, 18, 19 and 24, comprising independent claims 1, 2, 3, and 11 and the claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Harris A. Wolin". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

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